

## MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

### SLENDER ARROWHEAD

(Sagittaria teres S.Wats.)

#### DESCRIPTION

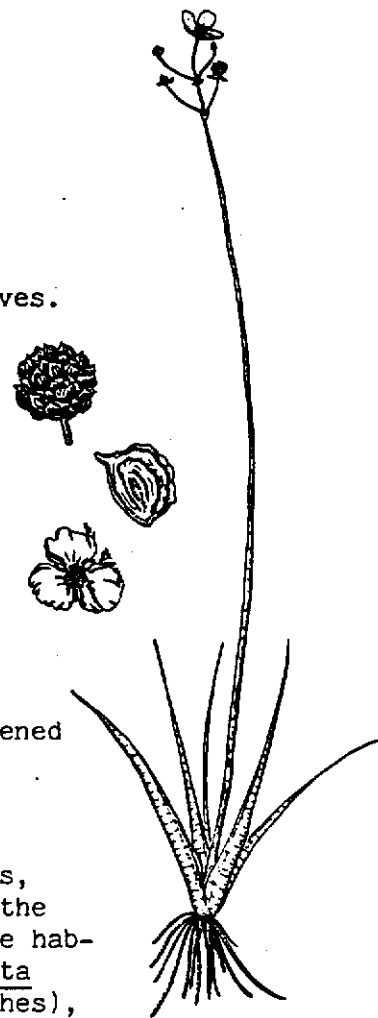
Sagittaria teres is a slender perennial plant of shallow water, 12 to 15 inches (30-38cm) tall. The linear leaves arise from a basal rosette and are always terete (rounded in cross section) unlike other arrowheads which have arrow-shaped or flattened leaves. It produces different length basal leaves depending on the depth of the water, the shallower the water the longer the leaves. Slender Arrowhead flowers only when emersed or stranded and is best seen in July and August when whorls of 3 petaled terminal or subterminal flowers are produced. Flowers are pure white with a yellow center and measure about 3/4" wide. The fruit is a round cluster of beaked seeds or achenes dull brown in color. The overall appearance of the plant is brownish-green or maroon in color.

#### SIMILAR SPECIES

Grass-leaved Arrowhead (Sagittaria graminea) somewhat resembles Slender Arrowhead but Grass-leaved Arrowhead has a slender flattened leaf blade.

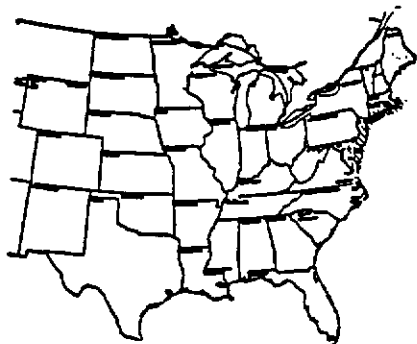
#### HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Sagittaria teres is found in shallow water in coastal plain ponds, however, it can get stranded on the beach if the water level of the pond drops too much in a season. Other species found in the same habitat include Eriocaulon septangulare (Pipewort), Gratiola neglecta (Golden Pert), Utricularia spp. (Bladderworts), Juncus spp. (Rushes), and Eleocharis spp. (Spike-rushes).

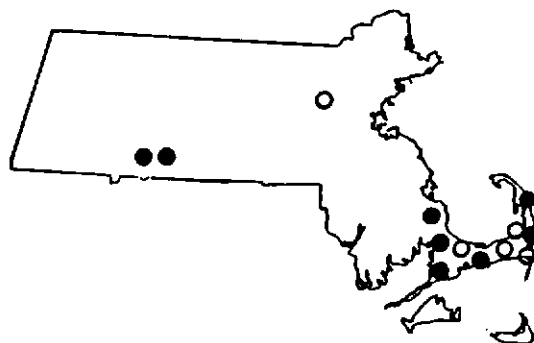


Bellquist, C.B. and G.R. Crow. Aquatic Vascular Plants of New England. University of New Hampshire, 1980.

(continued overleaf)



Distribution of Sagittaria teres



● Verified since 1978  
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town

## SLENDER ARROWHEAD (continued)

### RANGE

S. teres ranges from southeastern Massachusetts along the coastal plain to Delaware.

### POPULATION STATUS

Sagittaria teres is classified as a species of "Special Concern" in Massachusetts. Since 1978, it has been reported from 26 sites in the state; records from 17 additional locations were reported prior to 1978. In Massachusetts, populations vary enormously from pond to pond and year to year. With favorable conditions of extreme pond drawdown, populations may number up to 1000, and under other lesser conditions populations may only include a few scattered individual plants. Factors contributing to this species rarity include its occurrence at the northern edge of its range, development and recreational use of coastal plain ponds, pond contamination from runoff and faulty septic systems, scarcity of specifically suitable habitat, and probable limited dispersal capabilities.